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STATE REP. POWERS CALLS GIRLS STATE PROGRAM 'HUGE SUCCESS'



GREENWICH DELEGATION PART OF ANNUAL EVENT

HARTFORD - State Rep. Claudia "Dolly" Powers of Greenwich today called the annual Girls' State convention that involved hundreds of high school

students from across Connecticut "hugely successful" in empowering young women to become leaders and educating them about civics and government.

The Republican lawmaker, the Deputy House Minority leader, mentored the participants in legislative protocol at Eastern Connecticut State University Tuesday evening and then took part in a civics forum. Powers has been involved in the Girls State program, sponsored by the American Legion Women's Auxiliary, for more than a decade.

Powers greeted a delegation of outstanding Greenwich young women at the nearly week long event.

"These young women are extremely bright and motivated and were chosen to participate in Girls State based on their academic achievements and leadership qualities," Powers said. "They represent the future of Connecticut."

Girls State is non partisan organization that promotes responsible citizenship and dates to 1937. Powers noted that a young bill Clinton met President Kennedy at a Boys State event in the early 1960s. The Girls State program mirrors the Boys State model.

"Who knows, maybe we had a future president at Girls State this year!" Powers said. "Greenwich has a long history of providing leaders for this program.

Powers said the several hundred young women who have completed their junior year were schooled in the workings of government and are urged to utilize that knowledge to prepare for future civic-minded careers. She encouraged more students to consider Girls State as a worthwhile endeavor and a great experience.